



# **Massachusetts National Guard**

**Public Affairs**

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## **Media Advisory**

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### **Massachusetts National Guard Prepares to Support Hurricane Irene**

**MILFORD** – The Massachusetts National Guard is continuing preparations to support the state's Emergency Management Agency in general relief efforts across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for Hurricane Irene. Initially, 500 Soldiers and Airmen were called to state active duty to provide support to civil authorities and prepare for the hurricane. An additional 2,000 Guard members are now being activated in support of the operation.

Current operations include filling sandbags in preparation for extensive rain and staging of equipment for relief efforts. There are no current relief missions; however, the Massachusetts Guard is poised and ready to handle any missions that are called upon by the governor.

"In the Massachusetts Minuteman tradition, dedicated Citizen-Soldiers have assembled across the commonwealth and stand ready to safeguard and assist their neighbors during the storm and its aftermath," said Brig. Gen. Paul G. Smith, Assistant Adjutant General (Army), Massachusetts National Guard. "We are well trained, highly motivated and proud to serve," said Smith.

The Massachusetts National Guard was mobilized on August 26, 2011 by Gov. Deval Patrick when he declared a state of emergency in order to support MEMA. Guard members will assemble throughout the day in preparation for the upcoming storm.

The Massachusetts National Guard's 79th Troop Command will provide command and control of Soldiers, Airmen and equipment from the 126th Brigade Support Battalion, 211th Military Police Battalion, 101st Engineer Battalion, 104th Fighter Wing and 102nd Intelligence Wing.